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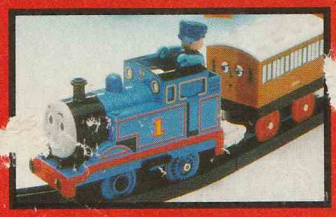
5th Nov.'93
No.158 65p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

PLUS..

EXCITING COMPETITION INSIDE!



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CONFORMS TO BS 1864

Not suitable for children under 36 months without supervision.

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NOTICEBOARD

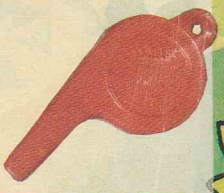
Peep! Peep! Thomas the Tank Engine and Bertie the Bus have always been great friends since they first raced together many years ago! They both meet each other again in our first story. Discover if Bertie the Bus can complete his journey this time! Don't miss our second story either to find out why the shed roof is leaking! Peep! Peep!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE!

Turn to page **14** for a super chance to win *Tomy's* **THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE STARTER SET** (see pic)! There will be **20** lucky winners!

OUR NEXT ISSUE!

Don't miss our next issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** for your **FREE** ***Thomas Whistle***!



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Look out for exclusive details of a new **Thomas the Tank Engine** *British Homestores Collection* called **'Sleepshop'** including *Clocks, Bean Bags* and *Rugs*!

How to obtain your Fat Controller's Card!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card** send one red, yellow and blue token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: **The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.**

Name .....

Address .....

.....

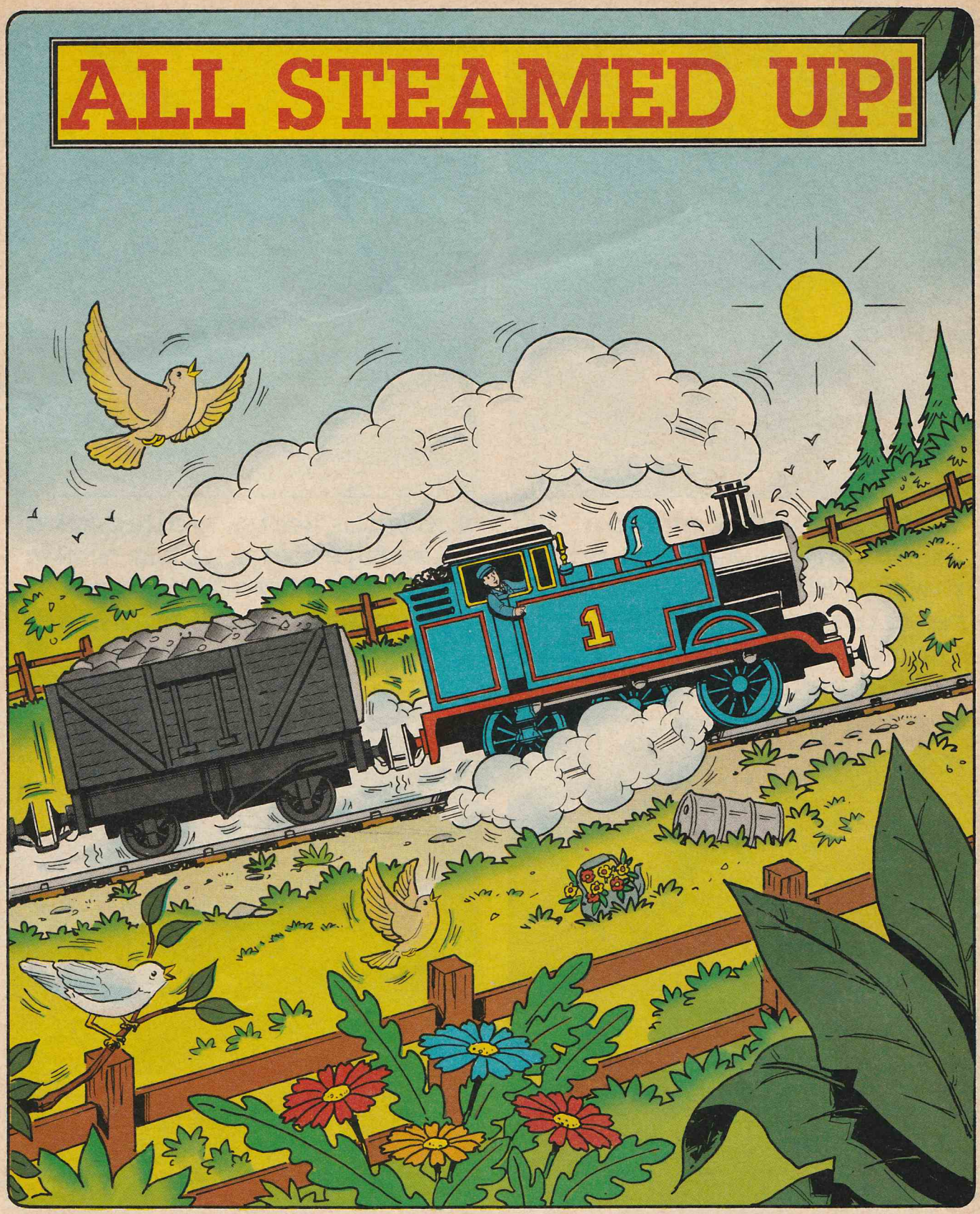
Postcode ..... **Age** .....

THOMAS TOKEN

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD**. Jim Galton, Chairman, Vincent Conran, Managing Director, Paul Neary, Editorial Director, Office of Publication: 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2 3DX. All **THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS** material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandise rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd exclusively worldwide. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by IPC Marketforce, Independent Publishers Group, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE 9LS. Tel. 071 261 6061 ISSN 0954-9390.

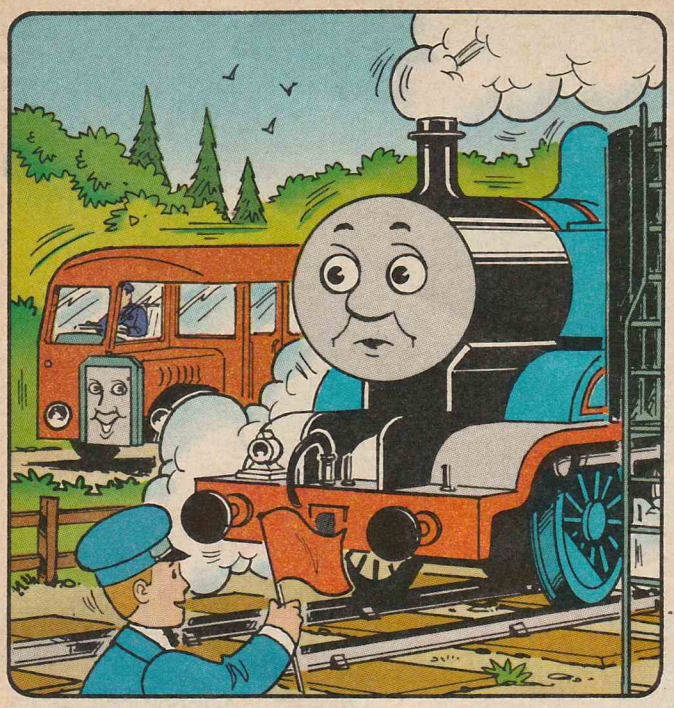
ABC CONSUMER PRESS

ALL STEAMED UP!

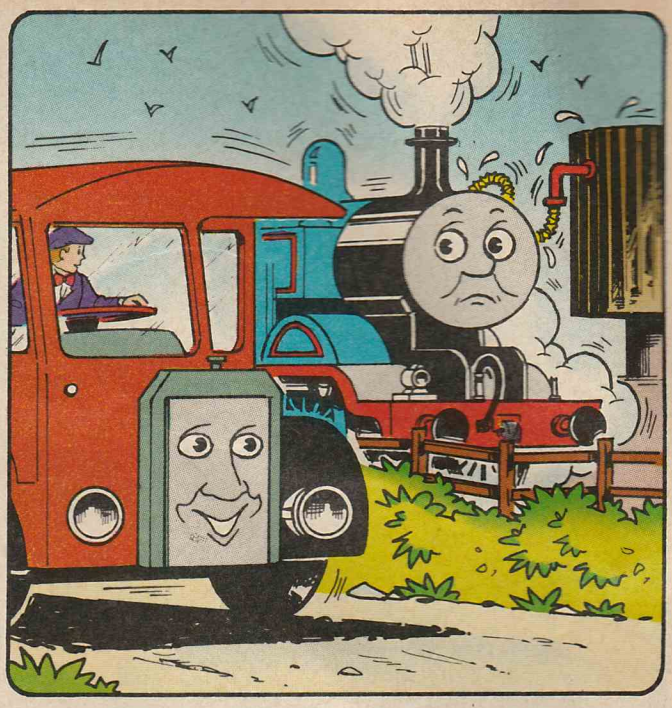


1. It was an unusually warm day for the time of year on the Island of Sodor. As Thomas pulled a goods train down his branch line, he grew hotter and hotter.

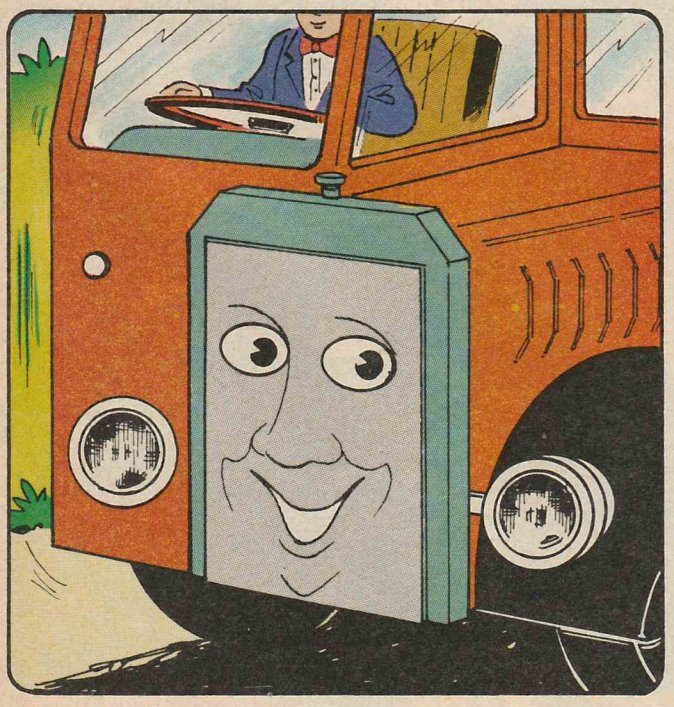
2. The sun baked the metal rails so Thomas hurried over them. As he steamed uphill, he huffed and puffed wearily. "This is thirsty work," he gasped.



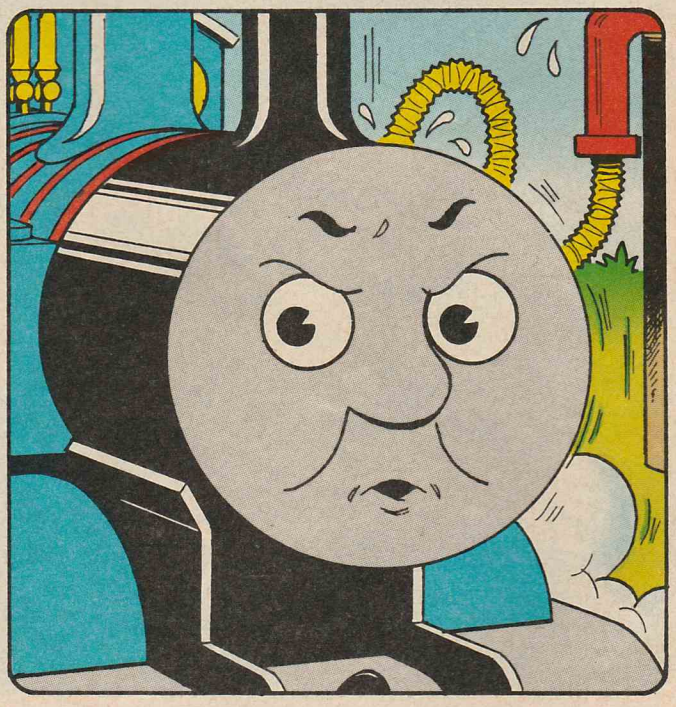
3. At the next station, he pulled up beside the water tower. "Phew! I'm boiling! I need a nice long drink!" said Thomas. Then Bertie the Bus arrived nearby.



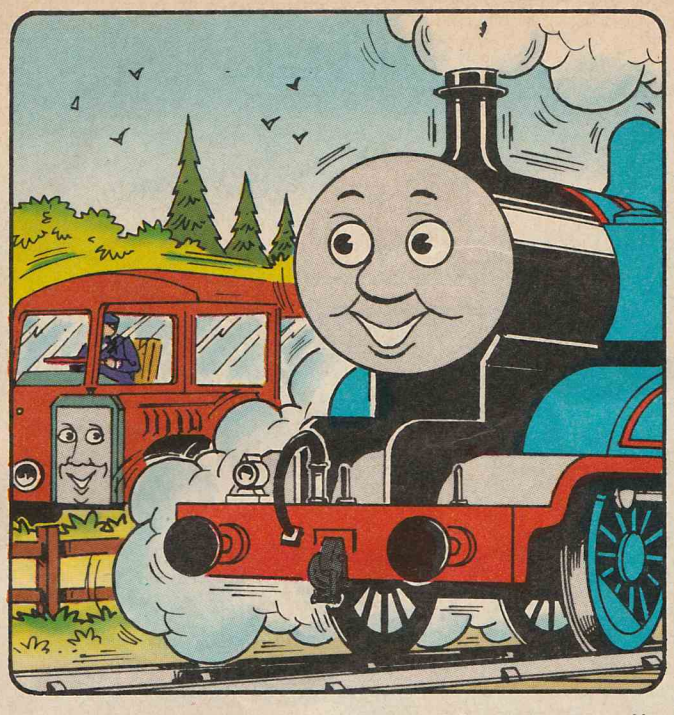
4. While Bertie waited at a bus stop close to the water tower, he saw Thomas was looking hot and bothered. "Hey! Mind you don't burst your boiler!" he teased.



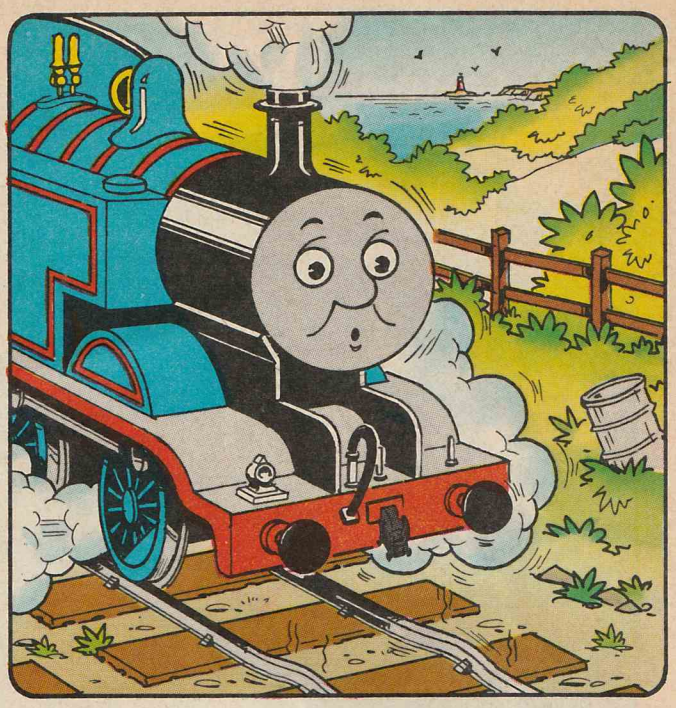
5. "I'm glad I don't have to pull heavy trucks and run on hot rails," Bertie added,"and all that coal you carry must slow you down!" Thomas was cross.



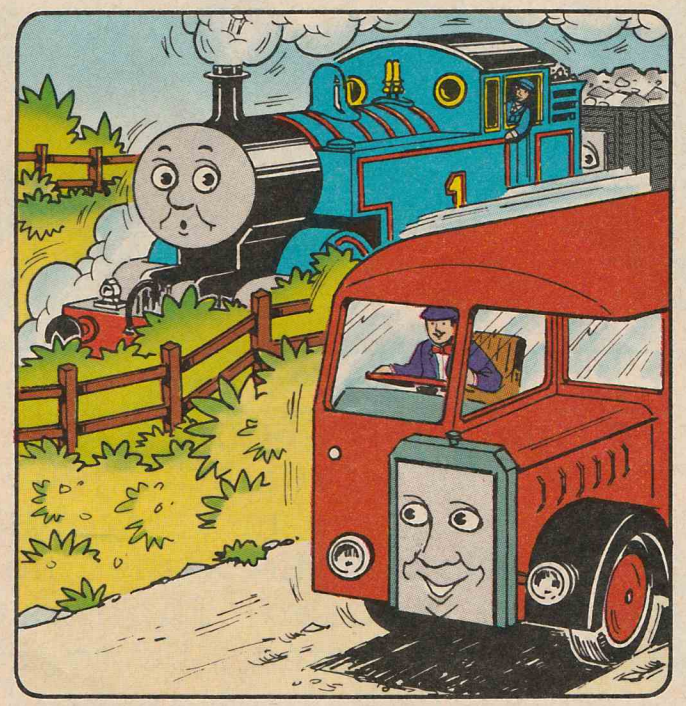
6. "Pah! Engines are more efficient than buses, whatever the weather!" fumed Thomas. After his drink, he felt much cooler and travelled on his way.



7. "Goodbye Bertie! You won't see me for smoke," called Thomas. Bertie was not carrying passengers any more because he was due back at the depot.



8. "I'll show Thomas that buses are best!" Bertie said. He raced along the road by the railway track. Meanwhile, Thomas spotted trouble ahead.



9. His driver put the brake on. "The sun has made the rail bend!" he said. Thomas had to go over it very slowly indeed. Next moment, Bertie sped by.

10. "I'm glad I'm not an engine!" he called. "Roads don't buckle!" At the next station, Thomas's driver told the Stationmaster about the damaged rail.

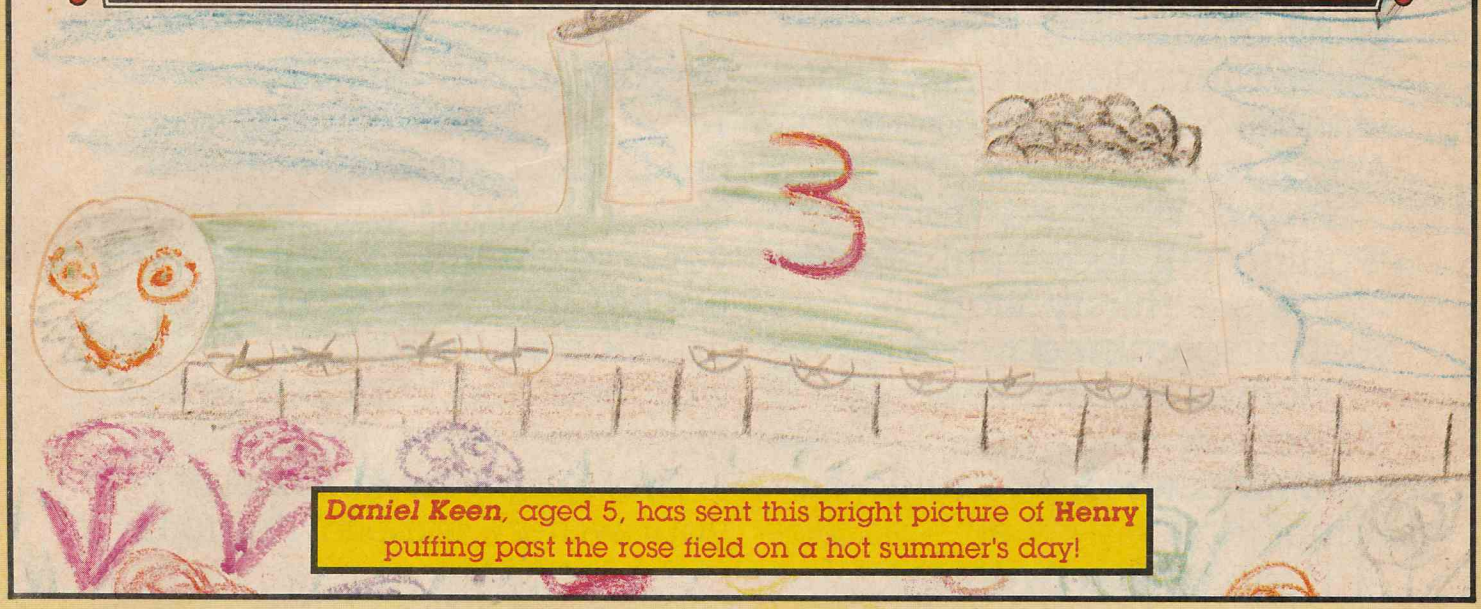
11. When Thomas returned to the Main Station yard, the Stationmaster had phoned ahead to the Fat Controller. Soon Thomas was sent back up the line with some engineers to replace the rail. On the way, Thomas stopped and waited for a signal to change. He saw Bertie stuck in a traffic jam.

12. Clouds of steam were gushing from Bertie's radiator. His driver had gone to fetch some more water for it. Now Bertie wished he hadn't teased Thomas. "I've overheated," he said. "Once I've had a cool drink, I'll be fine!" Thomas grinned. "I've never seen a steam bus before!" he chuckled.

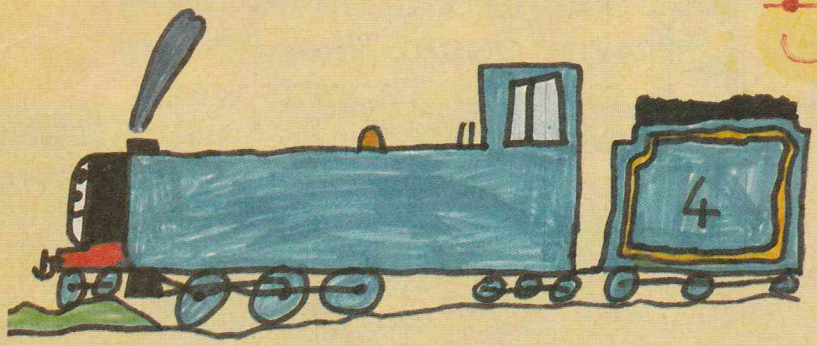
THE END!

In our next issue: Thomas off the track!

THE FAT CONTROLLER'S PICTURE PAGE!

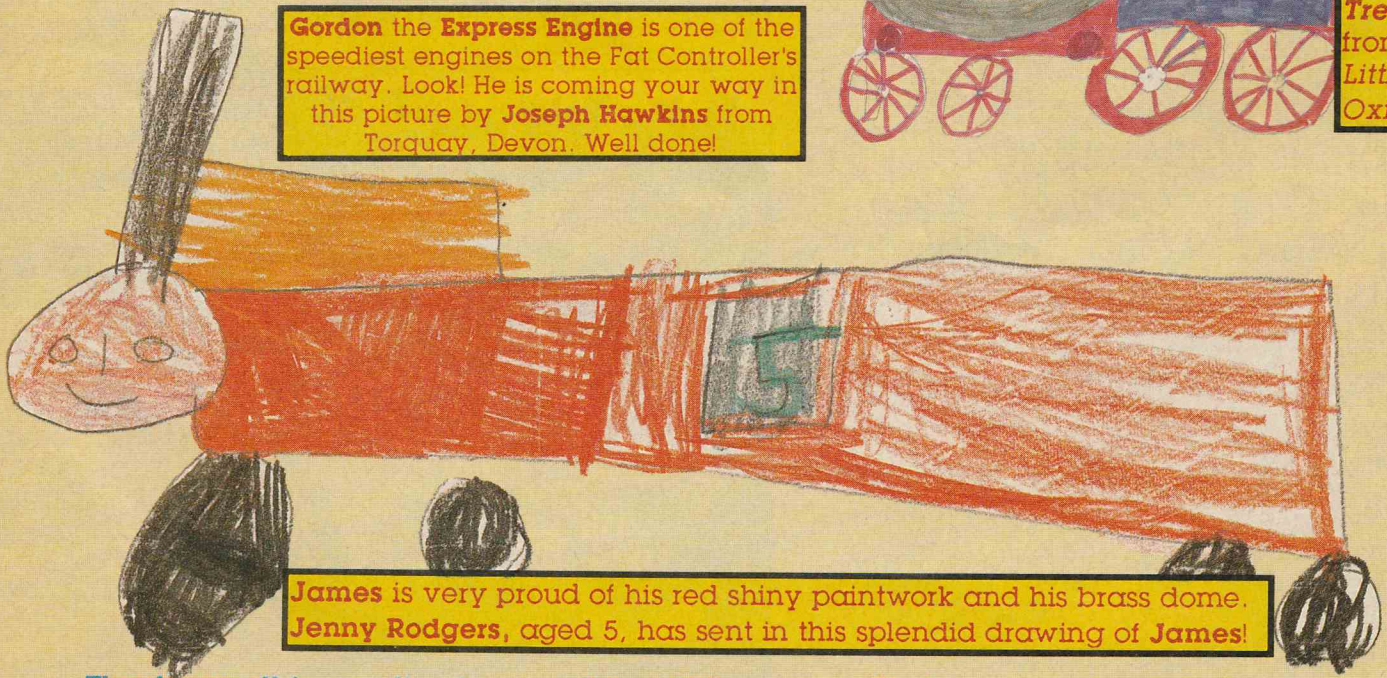


Daniel Keen, aged 5, has sent this bright picture of **Henry** puffing past the rose field on a hot summer's day!



Gordon the **Express Engine** is one of the speediest engines on the Fat Controller's railway. Look! He is coming your way in this picture by **Joseph Hawkins** from Torquay, Devon. Well done!

Peep! Peep! Look at this big picture of **Thomas the Tank Engine**! Our congratulations go out to ***Stephen Treadwell*** from *West Littlemore, Oxford!*



James is very proud of his red shiny paintwork and his brass dome. **Jenny Rodgers**, aged 5, has sent in this splendid drawing of **James**!

Thank you all for sending in your pictures! We are sorry that we can only print a few. If you would like to draw a picture and have a chance of seeing it printed in a future issue, please send it to:
The Fat Controller's Pictures Page, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.

KEEPING COOL!

The sun beat down on Thomas as he puffed along his branch line with his faithful carriages, Annie and Clarabel.

"Phew!" steamed Thomas. "Pulling carriages full of passengers is thirsty work on such a scorching hot day!"

Thomas went slower and slower.

"What's wrong?" called his driver.

"I don't know!" replied Thomas. "I feel so hot!"

Then his driver spotted one of Thomas's water tanks had sprung a leak.

"I can see the trouble!" he called.

Thomas was low on water. It was an emergency so the driver applied the brake and Thomas pulled up. The guard climbed down from his van and told the passengers what had happened.

"Thomas can't go until we stop his water tank leaking!" he said.

One passenger was a toy salesman. He had a case of toy samples. He gave some modelling clay to the guard.

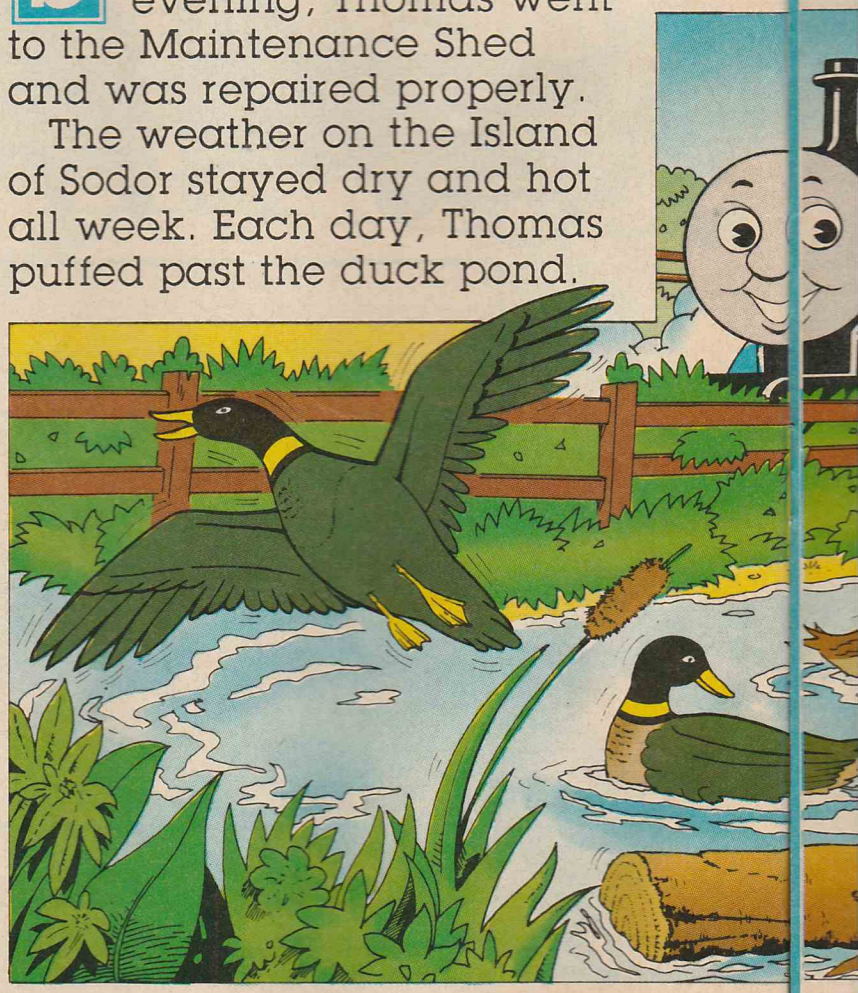
"Could this plug the hole in Thomas's tank?" The guard thought it was a splendid idea.

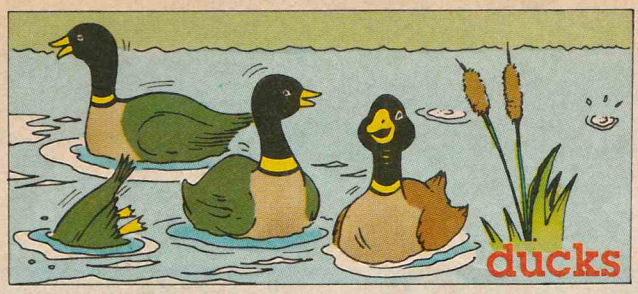
Nearby was a duck pond. Thomas's guard fetched a fire-bucket from his van. He took it in turns with the driver and fireman to fill the bucket from the pond, to top up Thomas's tank. The ducks watched and quacked noisily.

"I'm sorry I need some of your water!" called Thomas.

Soon he chuffed on his way again. That evening, Thomas went to the Maintenance Shed and was repaired properly.

The weather on the Island of Sodor stayed dry and hot all week. Each day, Thomas puffed past the duck pond.





The sun was drying it out. Now there was hardly any water left for the ducks. Thomas was worried.

When Thomas returned to the Main Station, he told the Fat Controller about the poor ducks.

"I know how to help!" said the Fat Controller. Thomas was coupled to a truck with a big tank on it. The tank was filled up at the water tower. The Fat Controller climbed into Thomas's cab with the driver.

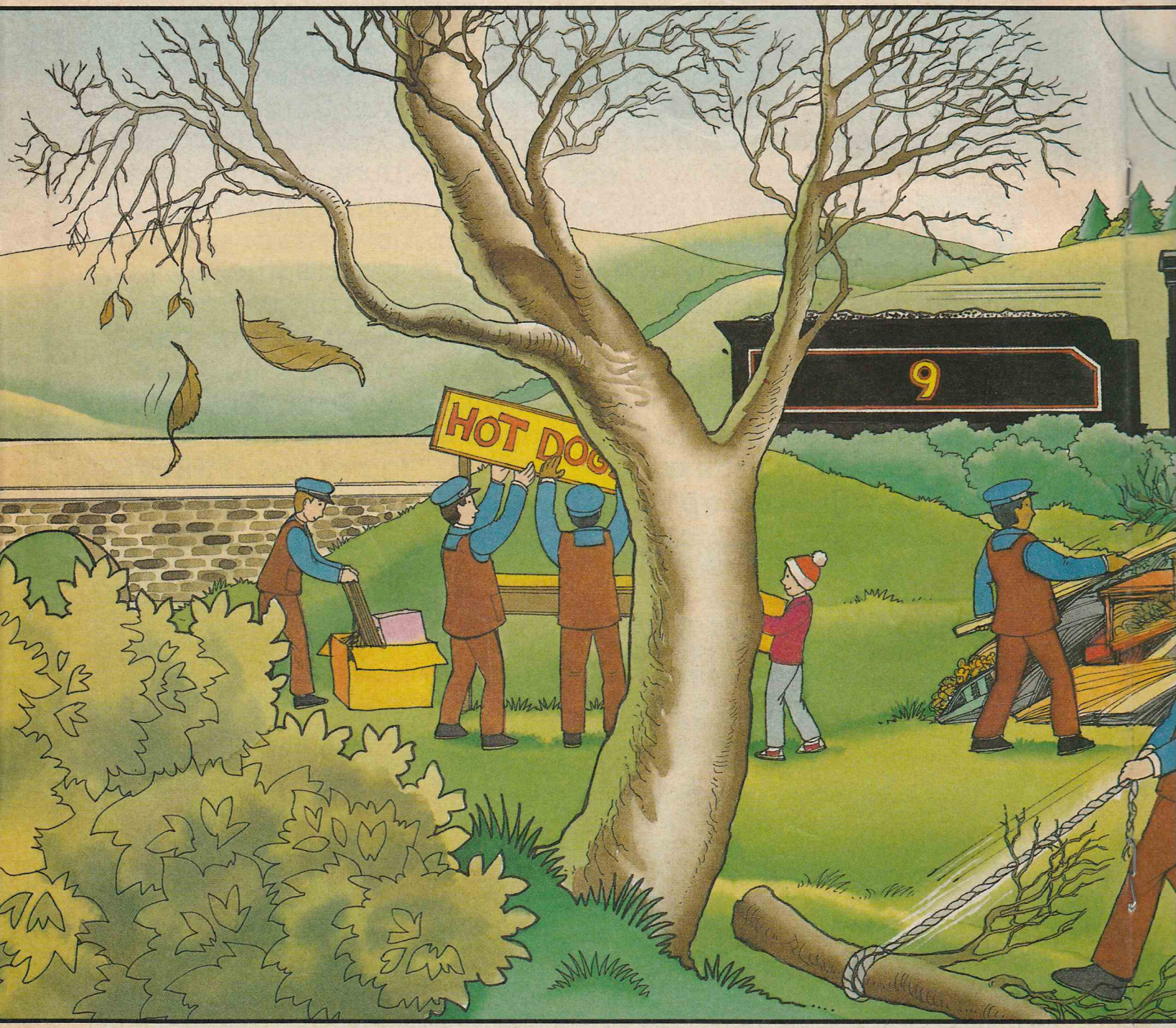
"Next stop! The duck pond, Thomas!" called the Fat Controller. Thomas wondered what he meant! When he arrived at the duck pond, the water was pumped from the tank-truck into the pond until it was full again.

Afterwards, the ducks swam about happily. Thomas was pleased.

"Ducks are a bit like steam engines!" he said. "They need lots of water, too!"

THE END

Getting ready for



Which engine can you see?
What number is he?
What colour is he?
Point to the bridge!

How many guards can
What are they gatheri
Point to the guy!
What colour is his jack

or firework night!

s can you count?
thering in the field?

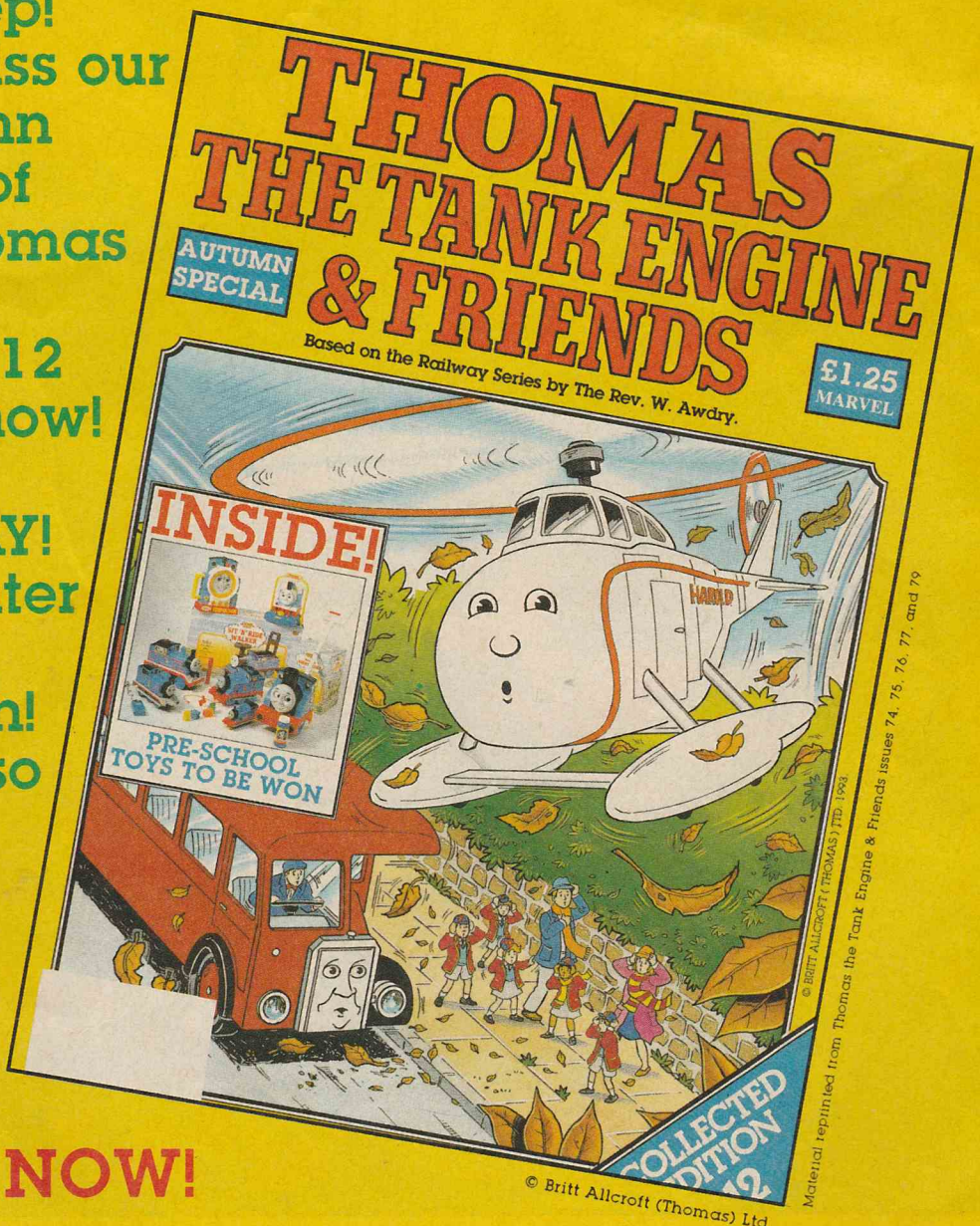
s jacket?

Note to parents:
This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a **'mural page'** in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all around the room!

In our next issue: Down the hill!

AUTUMN SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Peep! Peep! Don't miss our new Autumn collection of stories. Thomas Collected Edition No.12 is on sale now! Order your copy TODAY! You can enter a special competition! There is also a splendid poster for you to hang on your wall!



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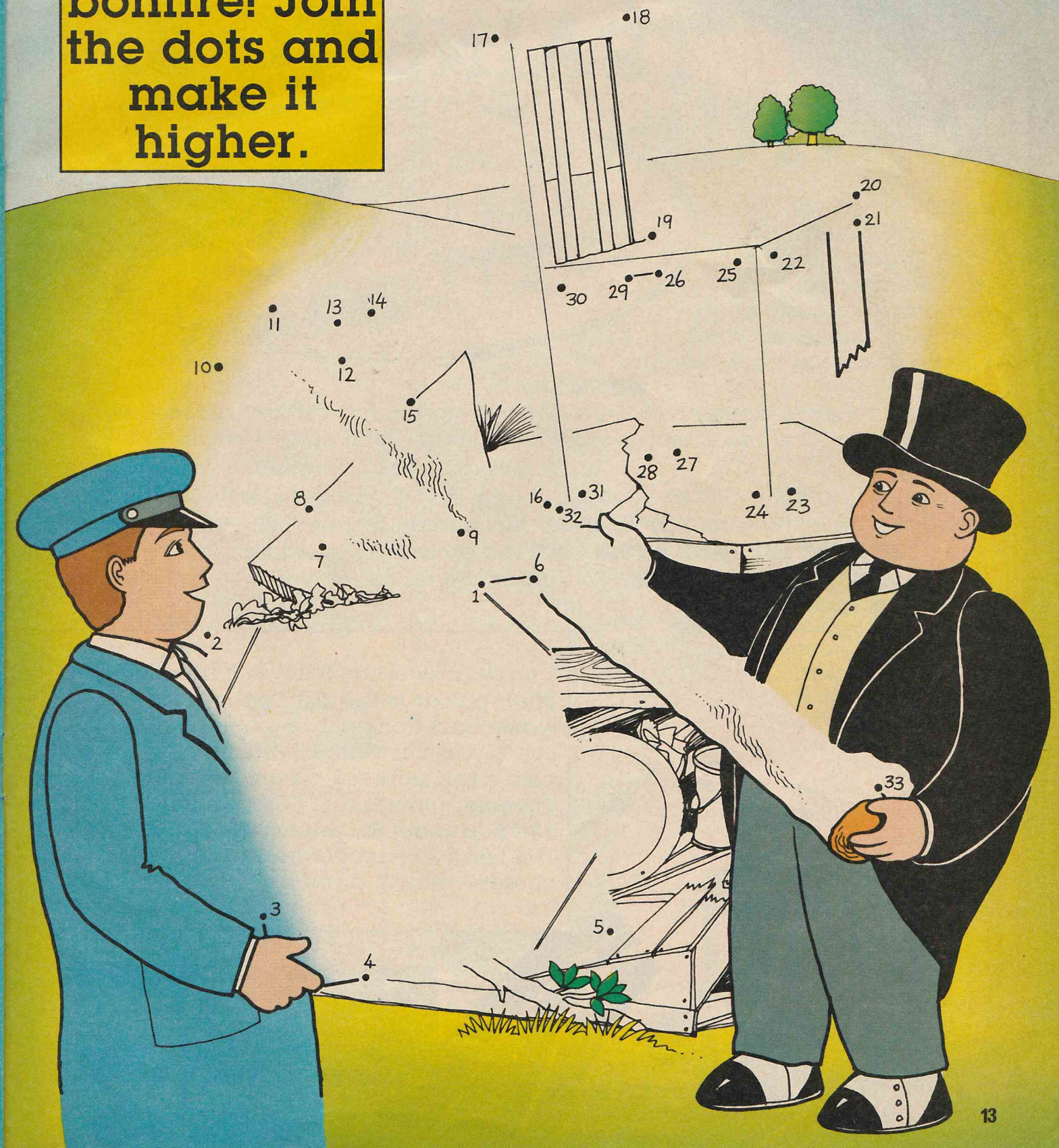
ON SALE NOW!

JOIN THE DOTS!

Help us to build the bonfire! Join the dots and make it higher.



COMPETITION!

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Anybody can be an engine driver with this fabulous Thomas the Tank Engine Starter Set from Tomytrains. You can push Thomas along with your hands, or watch him go down the track himself with his battery power, all you do is flick a switch. It's easy to connect Annie & Clarabel to Thomas as they stick together magnetically. The tracks simply snap together and pull apart easily.

The **Thomas the Tank Engine Set** on Tomytrain track (compatible with all Tomytrain systems) includes Thomas, Annie and Clarabel (who have approx 6 feet of track to run around). Each set has a retail price of £23.99.

Tomy's **THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE SET** is a great way to start collecting and building a train set. For further details on availability, you can telephone this special **Tomy Care line** on **0703 872 267.**

How to enter:

Simply answer the following question:

What colour is the Fat Controller's waistcoat? (look at the picture to help you).

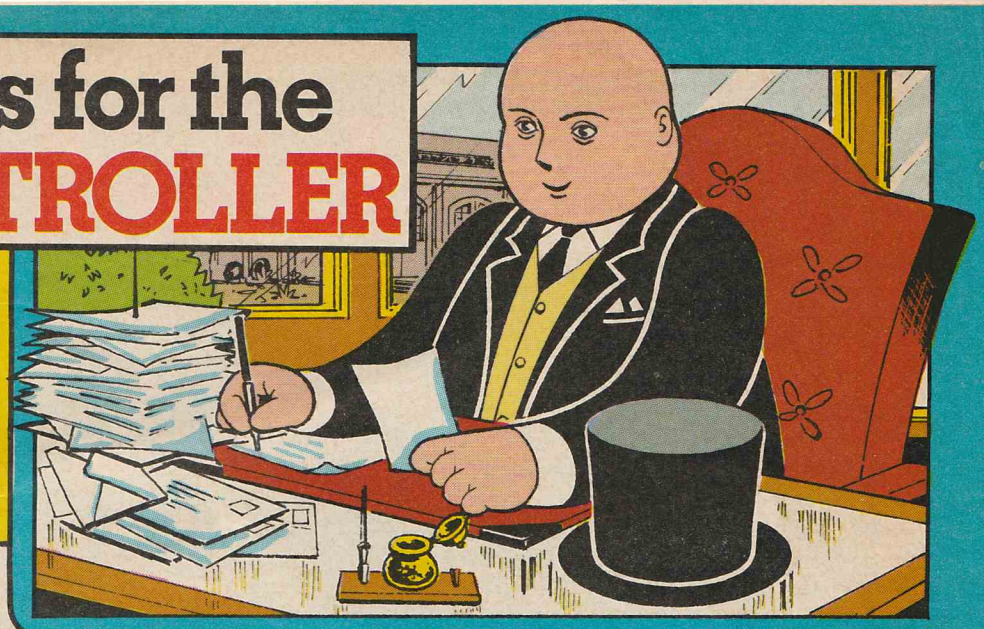
Send your answers, including your name and address, on a postcard to **Thomas/TomyTrains Competition, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.**

The first **20** correct entries to be chosen will win a prize.

Closing date: 19th November 1993!

Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of TomyTrains and Marvel Comics Ltd. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
When I go to my grandparents, my mummy takes me to the station to see the trains. When they stop, the driver waves and toots to me. Are all your drivers this friendly?

Love from **Ian Furze,** aged **3**.

I do train all my drivers to be helpful and friendly to all passengers and fellow railway staff. It does give my railway a very good reputation!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win some splendid **Thomas Pre-school** toys courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

ENGINE DRIVER!

Dear Fat Controller,
I went to a special Thomas the Tank Engine day at Leicester Central Station! I saw all the other engines. We looked inside Thomas and saw his fire!

Love from **Joseph Tate,** aged 7.

My! My! You were very lucky to see Thomas's engine room. You must have felt like a real engine driver. Perhaps, one day you will be able to work for a grand Railway Company!

FANTASTIC FÊTES!

Dear Fat Controller,
One day, my brother and I got to ride on Thomas at a school fête. We had so much fun that my daddy took us for three more rides.

Love from **Dale Powell,** aged 4.

It sounds as though you had a very pleasant day at the school fête. Trevor the Traction Engine always gives rides to the children at our fêtes and the Vicar helps to sell home-baked food and cakes for different charities!

BIRTHDAYS!

Raymond Paul Cole, Ian Denis Maher, Piet John Lake, Alexander Strange, Danielle Lowry, Bethany and Robert Upton, Jonathan and Jesse Roberts, Christopher Obin, Jonathan Hazell, Nicholas Merritt.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a post-card at least **nine weeks** in advance

Yours
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

Send your letters to:

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The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
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For just **£18.00 (35.00 overseas)**, your child will be sent **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** every fortnight for a whole year - or for **£10.00 (£18.00 overseas)** you can subscribe for **6 months.**

Additionally, if you subscribe for a **whole year (UK subscribers only)** you will receive a **FREE Thomas diecast model** plus a charming **notebook** and **pencil** ***(see opposite pictures)*** and personalised **Fat Controller's Card** enabling you to enter offers and competitions frequently open to **Fat Controller's Card** holders. Simply fill out the appropriate form below!

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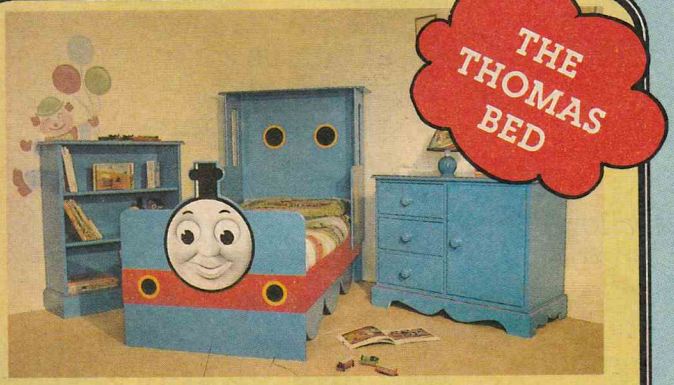

For further information on the **Thomas the Tank Engine Bed, Bedhead** and **Toybox**, plus the complimentary blue bedroom furniture please call: **Joshua Jones Ltd 0258 858470**
or for a **FREE** colour brochure and price list please send a large stamped addressed envelope to: ***Joshua Jones Ltd, 1A Baillie Gate Ind. Est. Sturminster Marshall. Wimbourne. Dorset. BH21 4DB.***

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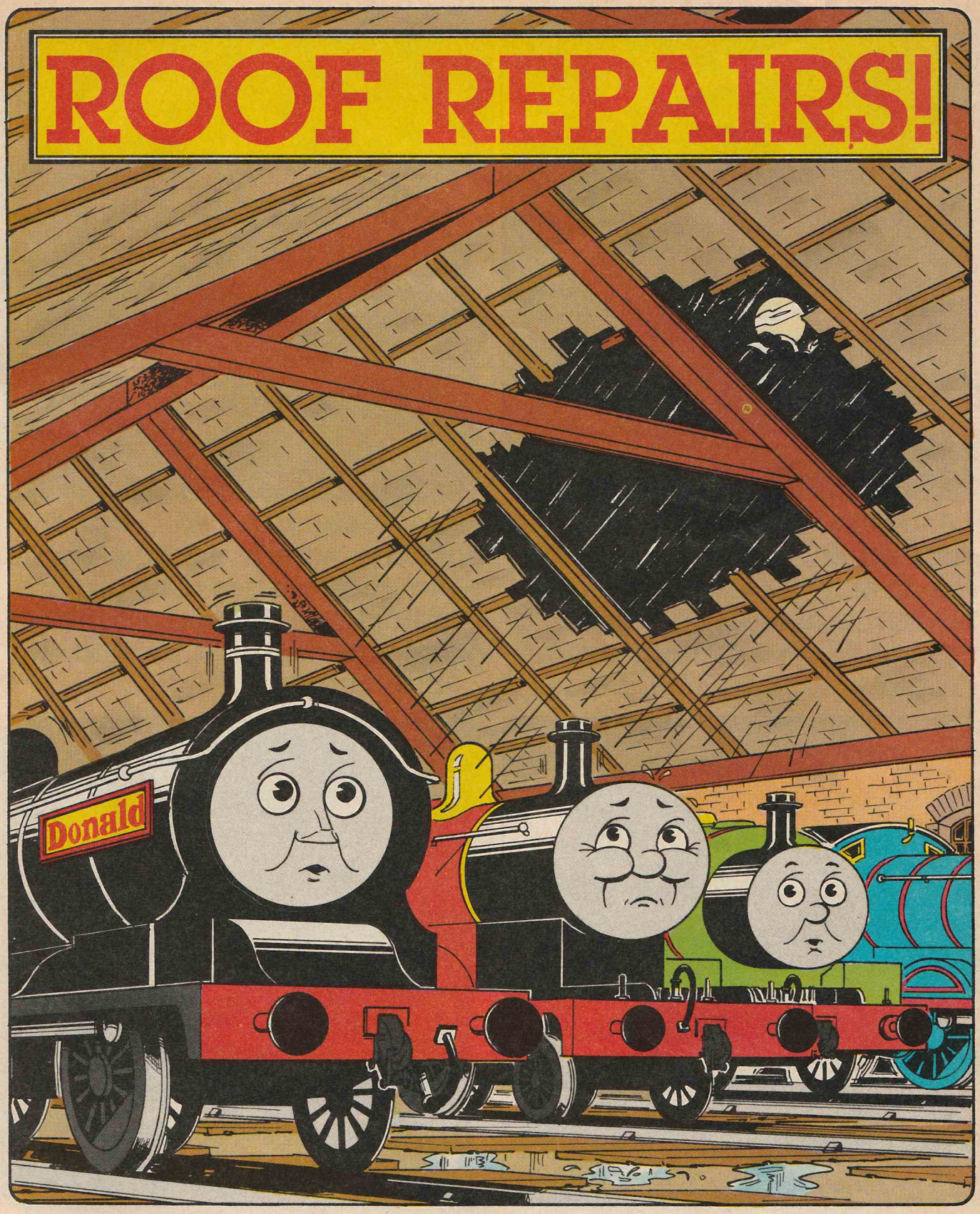
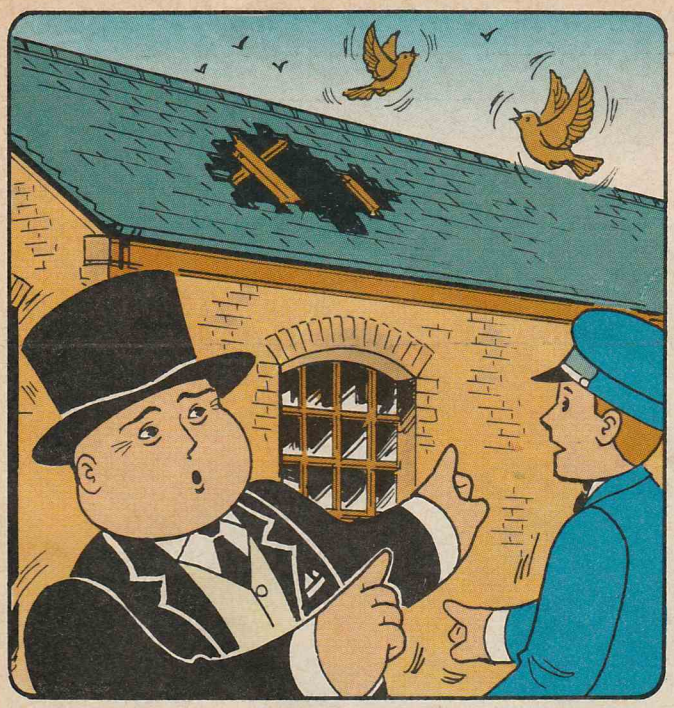
To apply for either subscription please fill out the appropriate section above and send this form, together with a cheque/postal order or credit card details to: **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 500, Leicester LE99 0AA.**

ROOF REPAIRS!

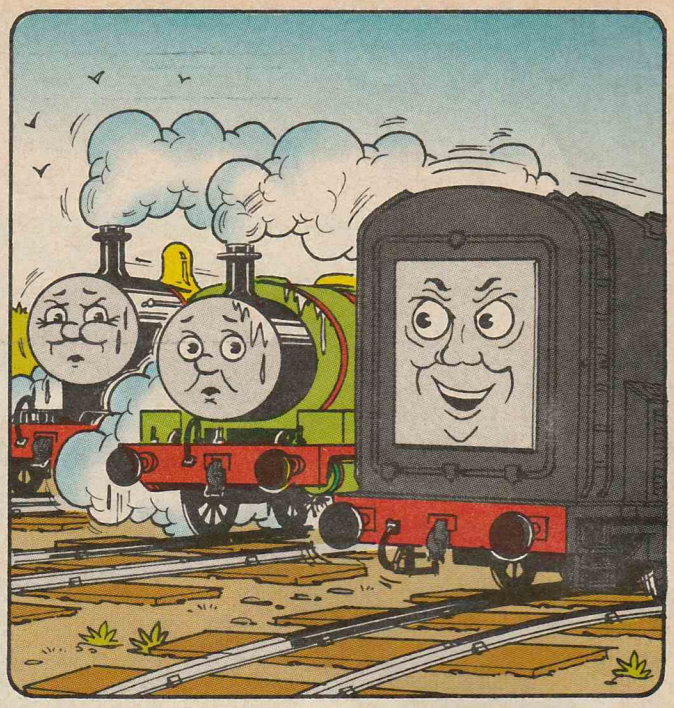


1. One night, a savage storm struck the Island of Sodor. High winds ripped a huge hole in the shed roof so rain poured in on the Fat Controller's engines.

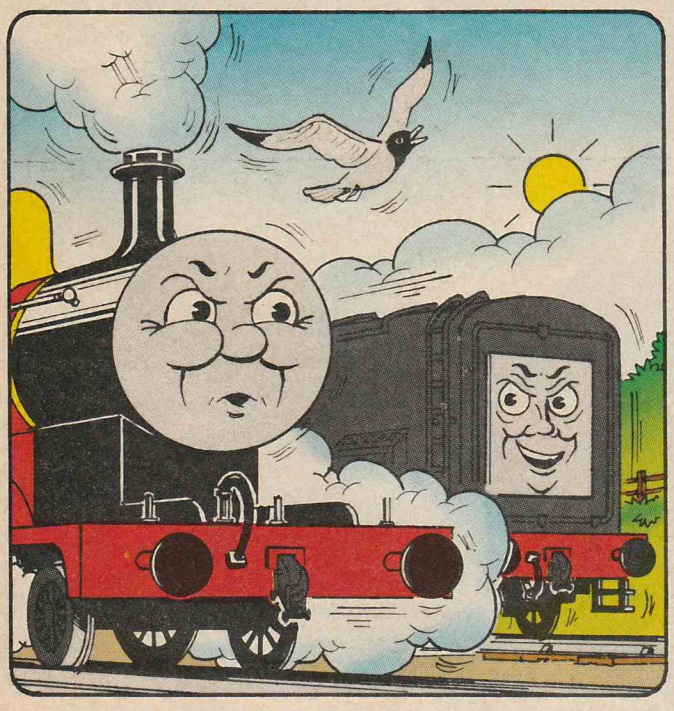
2. "Brr! I'm soaked from my buffers to my boiler!" howled Percy. "I hope my paintwork doesn't go rusty!" said James. None of the engines slept a wink .



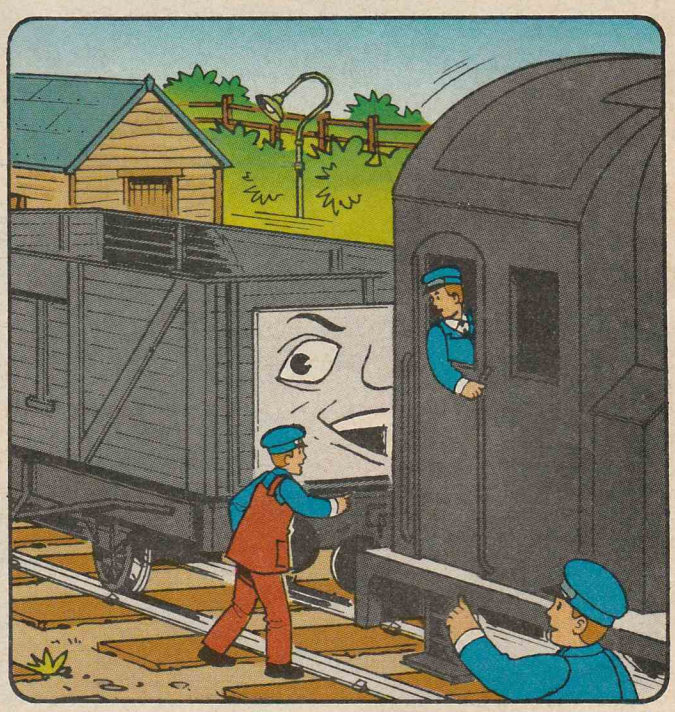
3. Next day, the engines rolled into the yard cold, tired and miserable. The Fat Controller ordered repairs to the shed roof to begin immediately.



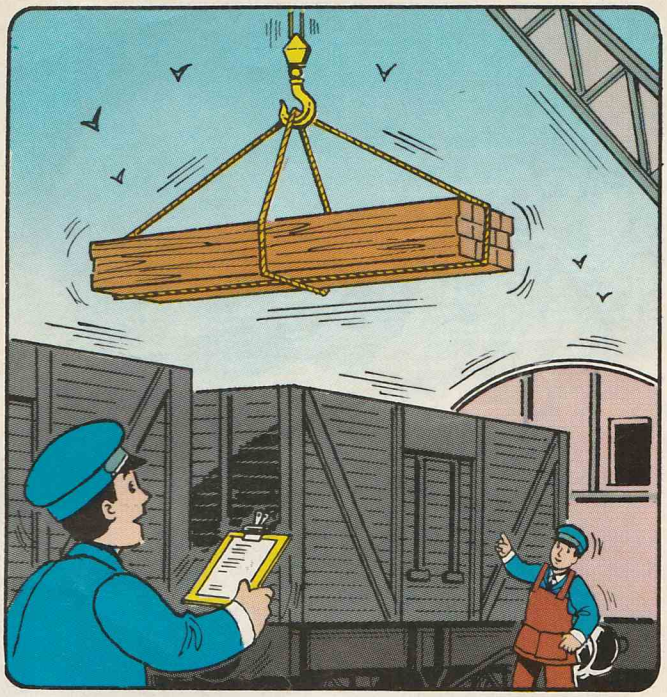
4. Diesel arrived from the Works, where he had spent the night after having his motors overhauled. "What a sorry-looking lot!" he told the other engines.



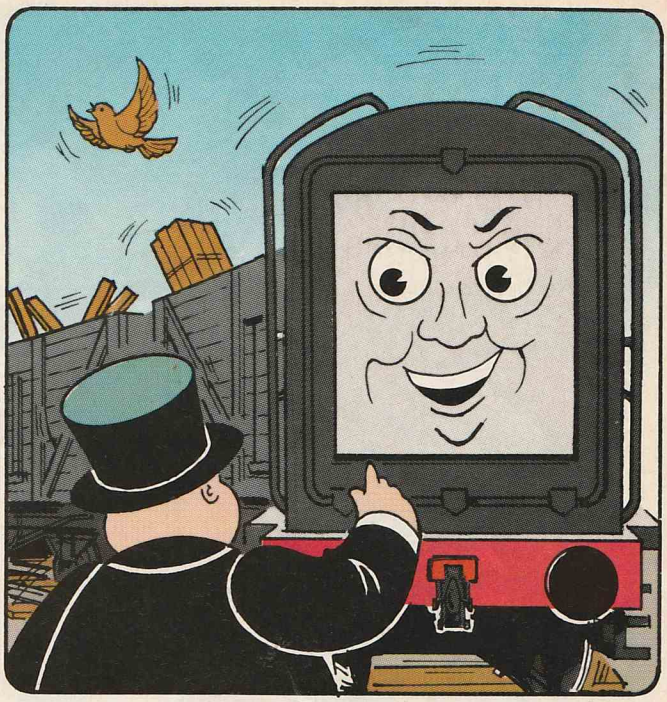
5. "It's all right for you!" snorted James. "You were as snug as a Diesel in a rug, at the Works!" "You're just jealous!" Diesel laughed nastily.



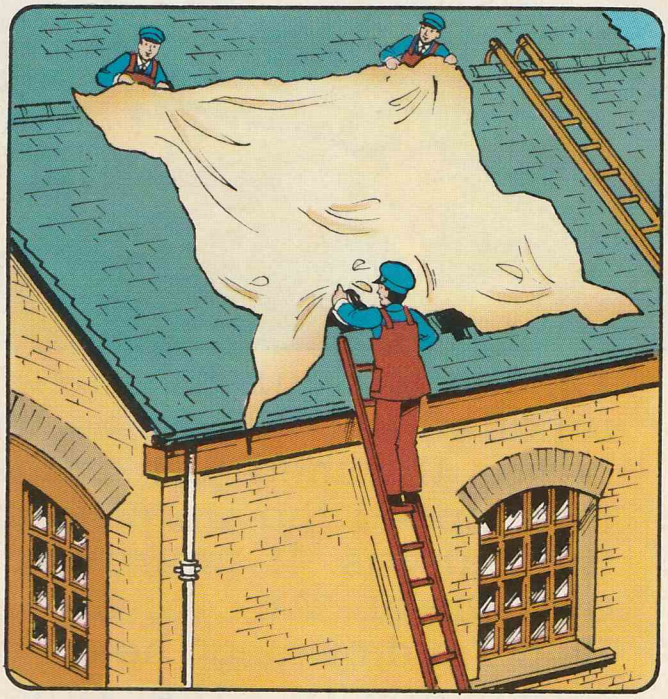
6. "I can't see what the fuss is about!" he added in his oily voice. "A drop of water never hurt an engine!" Diesel was coupled to some trucks.



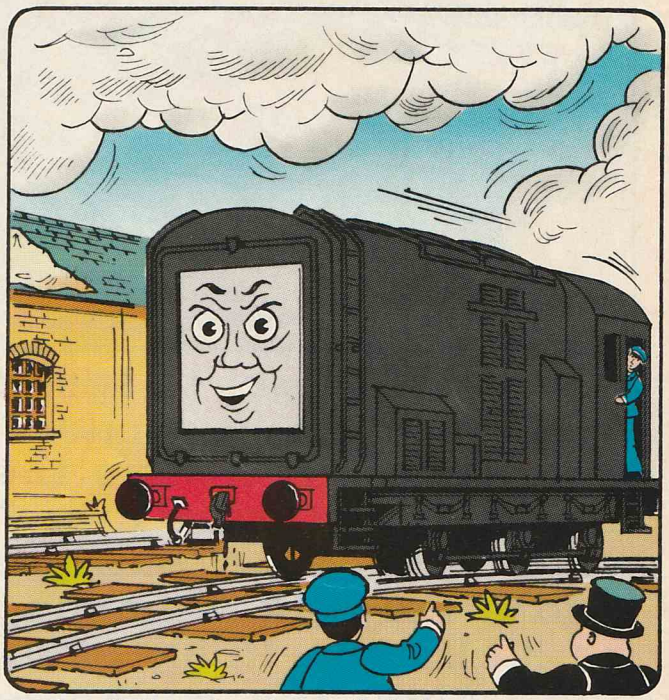
7. He set off to collect some timber from a saw-mill. The wood was needed for the engine-roof repairs. Diesel raced back to the yard in no time.



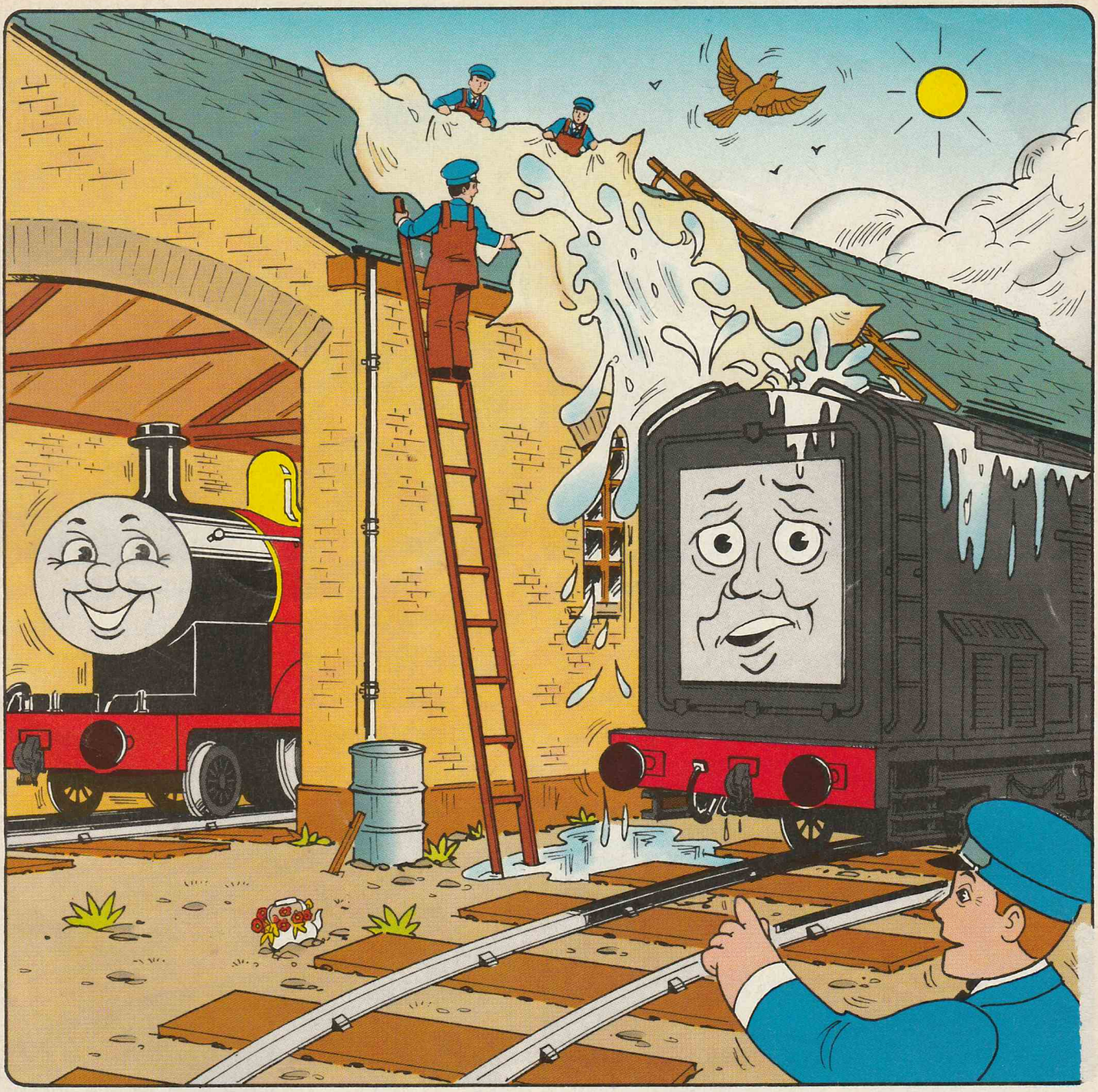
8. "Well done, Diesel!" the Fat Controller greeted him. "You can rely on me not to make a fuss, Sir!" said Diesel smoothly. His trucks were soon unloaded.



9. Work on the shed roof continued all day. By evening, it was still not finished so the engineers fixed a huge canvas sheet over the hole in the roof.



10. "That should keep you dry tonight!" the Fat Controller told his engines.But Diesel sprang an oil leak and was sent back to the Works.



11. "Trust Diesel to spend another night in comfort!" hissed Duck. "I hope the canvas doesn't blow away!" said Toby. The engines heard the rain drumming on it all night. In the morning, when the workmen climbed on to the roof, they saw the canvas was full of rain water. Then Diesel arrived.

12. His oil leak had been repaired and he pulled up beside the shed just as the men tipped the water from the canvas. It poured all over Diesel. "Ah,ooh, Grooh! Help! I'm drowning!" he spluttered noisily. The other engines watched. "What a fuss Diesel's making over a few drops of water!" grinned James.

THE END!

In our next issue: Fetching Freight!